

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) A method of operating a computer device to process
2 a document in a workflow system, the method in the computer device comprising:
3 detecting when a document is at a place in a first workflow network that allows
4 attachment of workflow networks associated with the document to the place of the first workflow
5 network, the first workflow network specifying a plurality of operations to be performed on the
6 document including a first operation and a second operation, the place occurring at a location in
7 the first workflow network after the first operation and before the second operation is performed
8 on the document;
9 determining, when the document is at the place that allows attachment of
10 workflow networks associated with the document, if a second workflow network specified by the
11 document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network, the second
12 workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and
13 if the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be
14 attached to the place of the first workflow network, attaching the second workflow network to
15 the place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the
16 second workflow network before returning, upon completion of processing of the document
17 according to the second workflow, to the place of the first workflow network to continue
18 processing of the document according to the first workflow network before the second operation
19 specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document,
20 wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second
21 workflow comprises a second Petri net.

1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first workflow network is
2 configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is configured by an author
3 of the document.

1 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein detecting when the
2 document is at the place in the first workflow network comprises:
3 detecting when the first operation has been performed on the document.

1 4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the
2 second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of
3 the first workflow network comprises:
4 determining permissions information specified for the place; and
5 determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is
6 permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the document satisfies the
7 permissions information specified for the place.

1 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the permissions
2 information specified for the place is configured by a designer of the first workflow network.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein determining if the
2 second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of
3 the first workflow network comprises:
4 determining permissions information associated with the document; and
5 determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is
6 permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the permissions information
7 associated with the document permits the attachment.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the permissions information
2 associated with the document is configured by an author of the document.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein attaching the
2 second workflow network to the place of the first workflow network such that the document is
3 processed according to the second workflow network before the second operation specified by
4 the first workflow network is performed on the document comprises:

5 performing at least one operation from the one or more operations specified by
6 the second workflow network on the document before performing the second operation specified
7 by the first workflow network on the document.

1 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein attaching the
2 second workflow network to the place of the first workflow network such that the document is
3 processed according to the second workflow network before the second operation specified by
4 the first workflow network is performed on the document comprises:

5 identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the document;
6 identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that satisfies a
7 selection criterion; and

8 processing the second document according to the workflow network identified
9 from the set of workflow networks before performing the second operation specified by the first
10 workflow network on the document.

1 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the second
2 workflow network attached to the place of the first workflow network comprises a place of the
3 second workflow network that allows attachment of workflow networks associated with the
4 document at the place of the second workflow network.

1 11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be
3 attached to the place of the first workflow network:

4 determining a set of workflow networks attached to the place of the first
5 workflow network;

6 identifying at least one workflow network from the set of workflow
7 networks for processing the document; and
8 processing the document according to the at least one workflow network
9 before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network on the
10 document.

1 12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be
3 attached to the place of the first workflow network:
4 determining a first set of workflow networks attached to the place of the
5 first workflow network;
6 based upon permissions information associated with the document,
7 detaching one or more workflow networks included in the first set of workflow networks from
8 the place such that a second set of workflow networks remain attached to the place;
9 identifying at least one workflow network from the second set of
10 workflow networks for processing the document; and
11 processing the document according to the at least one workflow network
12 before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network on the
13 document.

1 13. (Currently amended) A method of operating a computer device to process
2 a document according to a first workflow network, the first workflow network specifying a
3 plurality of operations to be performed, the plurality of operations including a first operation and
4 a second operation following the first operation, the method in the computer device comprising:
5 subsequent to performing the first operation and before performing the second
6 operation, determining if the document is permitted to be processed by a second workflow
7 network specified by the document at a location in the first workflow network that allows the
8 document to be processed according to other workflow networks associated with the document,

the second workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and

if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network at the location that allows the document to be processed according to other workflow networks associated with the document, processing the document according to the second workflow network and returning to the location, upon completion of processing of the document according to the second workflow, to continue processing of the document according to the first workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed, wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second workflow comprises a second Petri net.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the first workflow network is configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is configured by an author of the document.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network specified by the document comprises:

determining permissions information specified for the first workflow network; and

determining that the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network if the document satisfies the permissions information specified for the first workflow network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the permissions information specified for the first workflow network is configured by a designer of the first workflow network.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein determining if the document is
2 permitted to be processed by the second workflow network specified by the document
3 comprises:

4 determining permissions information associated with the document; and
5 determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow
6 network specified by the document based upon the permissions information associated with the
7 document.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the permissions information
2 associated with the document is configured by an author of the document.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein processing the document
2 according to the second workflow network comprises:
3 identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the document;
4 identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that satisfies a
5 selection criterion; and
6 processing the second document according to the workflow network identified
7 from the set of workflow networks before performing the second operation specified by the first
8 workflow network.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein processing the document
2 according to the second workflow network comprises:
3 performing at least one operation from the one or more operations specified by
4 the second workflow network before performing the second operation specified by the first
5 workflow network.

21. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:

identifying a set of workflow networks;

identifying at least one workflow network from the set of workflow

networks for processing the document; and

processing the document according to the at least one workflow network

before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network.

22. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprising:

if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:

identifying a first set of workflow networks;

based upon permissions information associated with the document,

deleting one or more workflow networks from the first set of workflow networks;

identifying at least one workflow network from workflow networks

remaining in the first set of workflow networks for processing the document; and

processing the document according to the at least one workflow network

before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network.

23. (Currently amended) A computer program product having a computer

readable storage medium storing instructions executable by a processor of a computer system for processing a document in a workflow system, the computer program product comprising:

code for detecting when a document is at a place in a first workflow network that

allows attachment of workflow networks associated with the document to the place of the first

workflow network, the first workflow network specifying a plurality of operations to be

performed on the document including a first operation and a second operation, the place

occurring at a location in the first workflow network after the first operation and before the

second operation is performed on the document;

code for determining, when the document is at the place that allows attachment of workflow networks associated with the document, if a second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network, the second workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and if the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network, code for attaching the second workflow network to the place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the second workflow network before returning, upon completion of processing of the document according to the second workflow, to the place of the first workflow network to continue processing of the document according to the first workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document, wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second workflow comprises a second Petri net.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the first workflow network is configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is configured by an author of the document.

25. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the code for detecting when the document is at the place in the first workflow network comprises:

code for detecting when the first operation has been performed on the document.

26. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the code for determining if the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network comprises:

code for determining permissions information specified for the place; and

code for determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the document satisfies the permissions information specified for the place.

27. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 26 wherein the permissions information specified for the place is configured by a designer of the first workflow network.

28. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the code for determining if the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network comprises:
code for determining permissions information associated with the document; and
code for determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the permissions information associated with the document permits the attachment.

29. (Original) The computer program product of claim 28 wherein the permissions information associated with the document is configured by an author of the document.

30. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 wherein the code for attaching the second workflow network to the place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the second workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document comprises:
code for performing at least one operation from the one or more operations specified by the second workflow network on the document before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network on the document.

1 31. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23
2 wherein the code for attaching the second workflow network to the place of the first workflow
3 network such that the document is processed according to the second workflow network before
4 the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document
5 comprises:

6 code for identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the
7 document;

8 code for identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that
9 satisfies a selection criterion; and

10 code for processing the second document according to the workflow network
11 identified from the set of workflow networks before performing the second operation specified
12 by the first workflow network on the document.

1 32. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23
2 wherein the second workflow network attached to the place of the first workflow network
3 comprises a place of the second workflow network that allows attachment of workflow networks
4 associated with the document at the place of the second workflow network.

1 33. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 further
2 comprising:

3 if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be
4 attached to the place of the first workflow network:

5 code for determining a set of workflow networks attached to the place of
6 the first workflow network;

7 code for identifying at least one workflow network from the set of
8 workflow networks for processing the document; and

code for processing the document according to the at least one workflow network before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network on the document.

34. (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 23 further comprising:

if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network:

code for determining a first set of workflow networks attached to the place of the first workflow network;

based upon permissions information associated with the document, code for detaching one or more workflow networks included in the first set of workflow networks from the place such that a second set of workflow networks remain attached to the place;

code for identifying at least one workflow network from the second set of workflow networks for processing the document; and

code for processing the document according to the at least one workflow network before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network on the document.

35. (Currently amended) A computer program product having a computer readable storage medium storing instructions executable by a processor of a computer system for processing a document according to a first workflow network, the first workflow network specifying a plurality of operations to be performed, the plurality of operations including a first operation and a second operation following the first operation, the computer program product comprising:

code for determining, subsequent to performing the first operation and before performing the second operation, if the document is permitted to be processed by a second workflow network specified by the document at a location of the first workflow network that allows the document to be processed according to other workflow networks associated with the

document, the second workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and

if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network at the location that allows the document to be processed according to other workflow networks associated with the document, code for processing the document according to the second workflow network before returning to the location, upon completion of processing of the document according to the second workflow, to continue processing of the document according to the first workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document,

wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second workflow comprises a second Petri net.

36. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the first workflow network is configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is configured by an author of the document.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code for determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network specified by the document comprises:

code for determining permissions information specified for the first workflow network; and

code for determining that the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network if the document satisfies the permissions information specified for the first workflow network.

38. (Original) The computer program product of claim 37 wherein the permissions information specified for the first workflow network is configured by a designer of the first workflow network.

1 39. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code
2 for determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow network
3 specified by the document comprises:
4 code for determining permissions information associated with the document; and
5 code for determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second
6 workflow network specified by the document based upon the permissions information associated
7 with the document.

1 40. (Original) The computer program product of claim 39 wherein the
2 permissions information associated with the document is configured by an author of the
3 document.

1 41. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code
2 for processing the document according to the second workflow network comprises:
3 code for identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the
4 document;
5 code for identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that
6 satisfies a selection criterion; and
7 code for processing the second document according to the workflow network
8 identified from the set of workflow networks before performing the second operation specified
9 by the first workflow network on the document.

1 42. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 wherein the code
2 for processing the document according to the second workflow network comprises:
3 code for performing at least one operation from the one or more operations
4 specified by the second workflow network before performing the second operation specified by
5 the first workflow network.

1 43. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising:
2 if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:
3 code for identifying a set of workflow networks;
4 code for identifying at least one workflow network from the set of
5 workflow networks for processing the document; and
6 code for processing the document according to the at least one workflow
7 network before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network.

1 44. (Original) The computer program product of claim 35 further comprising:
2 if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:
3 code for identifying a first set of workflow networks;
4 based upon permissions information associated with the document, code
5 for deleting one or more workflow networks from the first set of workflow networks;
6 code for identifying at least one workflow network from workflow
7 networks remaining in the first set of workflow networks for processing the document; and
8 code for processing the document according to the at least one workflow
9 network before performing the second operation specified by the first workflow network.

1 45. (Currently amended) A workflow processing system comprising:
2 one or more computer systems configured to perform a plurality operations on a
3 document specified by a first workflow network, the plurality of operations including a first
4 operation and a second operation, the first workflow network comprising a place that allows
5 attachment of workflow networks associated with the document to the place of the first workflow
6 network and that occurs at a location in the first workflow network after the first operation and
7 before the second operation is performed on the document; and
8 a workflow controller coupled to the one or more computer systems;
9 wherein the workflow controller is configured to:

10 detect when the document is at the place in the first workflow network that
11 allows attachment of workflow networks associated with the document;
12 determine, when the document is at the place that allows attachment of
13 workflow networks associated with the document, if a second workflow network specified by the
14 document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network, the second
15 workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and
16 if the second workflow network specified by the document is permitted to
17 be attached to the place of the first workflow network, attach the second workflow network to
18 the place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the
19 second workflow network before returning, upon completion of processing of the document
20 according to the second workflow, to the place of the first workflow network to continue
21 processing of the document according to the first workflow network before the second operation
22 specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document,
23 wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second
24 workflow comprises a second Petri net.

1 46. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 45 wherein the first
2 workflow network is configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is
3 configured by an author of the document.

1 47. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is configured to detect when the document is at the place in the
3 first workflow network by detecting when the first operation has been performed on the
4 document.

1 48. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is configured to determine if the second workflow network
3 specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network
4 by:

5 determining permissions information specified for the place; and
6 determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is
7 permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the document satisfies the
8 permissions information specified for the place.

1 49. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 48
2 wherein the permissions information specified for the place is configured by a designer of the
3 first workflow network.

1 50. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is configured to determine if the second workflow network
3 specified by the document is permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow network
4 by:

5 determining permissions information associated with the document; and
6 determining that the second workflow network specified by the document is
7 permitted to be attached to the place of the first workflow if the permissions information
8 associated with the document permits the attachment.

1 51. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 50 wherein the
2 permissions information associated with the document is configured by an author of the
3 document.

1 52. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is configured to attach the second workflow network to the
3 place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the second
4 workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is
5 performed on the document by:
6 causing at least one operation from the one or more operations specified by the
7 second workflow network to be performed on the document before the second operation
8 specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document.

1 53. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is configured to attach the second workflow network to the
3 place of the first workflow network such that the document is processed according to the second
4 workflow network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is
5 performed on the document by:
6 identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the document;
7 identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that satisfies a
8 selection criterion; and
9 causing the second document to be processed according to the workflow network
10 identified from the set of workflow networks before the second operation specified by the first
11 workflow network is performed on the document.

1 54. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the second workflow network attached to the place of the first workflow network
3 comprises a place of the second workflow network that allows attachment of workflow networks
4 associated with the document at the place of the second workflow network.

1 55. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is further configured to:
3 if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be
4 attached to the place of the first workflow network:
5 determine a set of workflow networks attached to the place of the first
6 workflow network;
7 identify at least one workflow network from the set of workflow networks
8 for processing the document; and
9 cause the document to be processed according to the at least one workflow
10 network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the
11 document.

1 56. (Previously presented) The workflow processing system of claim 45
2 wherein the workflow controller is further configured to:
3 if the second workflow network specified by the document is not permitted to be
4 attached to the place of the first workflow network:
5 determine a first set of workflow networks attached to the place of the first
6 workflow network;
7 based upon permissions information associated with the document, detach
8 one or more workflow networks included in the first set of workflow networks from the place
9 such that a second set of workflow networks remain attached to the place;
10 identify at least one workflow network from the second set of workflow
11 networks for processing the document; and
12 cause the document to be processed according to the at least one workflow
13 network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the
14 document.

1 57. (Currently amended) A workflow processing system comprising:
2 one or more computer systems configured to process a document according to a
3 first workflow network, the first workflow network specifying a plurality of operations to be
4 performed, the plurality of operations including a first operation and a second operation
5 following the first operation; and
6 a controller system coupled to the one or more computer systems;
7 wherein the controller system is configured to:
8 subsequent to performing the first operation and before performing the
9 second operation, determine if the document is permitted to be processed by a second workflow
10 network specified by the document at a location in the first workflow network that allows the
11 document to be processed according to other workflow networks associated with the document,
12 the second workflow network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the
13 document; and
14 if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow
15 network at the location that allows the document to be processed according to other workflow
16 networks, cause the document to be processed according to the second workflow network before
17 returning to the location, upon completion of processing of the document according to the second
18 workflow, to continue processing of the document according to the first workflow network
19 before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed,
20 wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second
21 workflow comprises a second Petri net.

1 58. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the first
2 workflow network is configured by a workflow designer and the second workflow network is
3 configured by an author of the document.

1 59. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is configured to determine if the document is permitted to be processed by the
3 second workflow network specified by the document by:

4 determining permissions information specified for the first workflow network;
5 and

6 determining that the document is permitted to be processed by the second
7 workflow network if the document satisfies the permissions information specified for the first
8 workflow network.

1 60. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 59 wherein the
2 permissions information specified for the first workflow network is configured by a designer of
3 the first workflow network.

1 61. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is configured to determine if the document is permitted to be processed by the
3 second workflow network specified by the document by:

4 determining permissions information associated with the document; and

5 determining if the document is permitted to be processed by the second workflow
6 network specified by the document based upon the permissions information associated with the
7 document.

1 62. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 61 wherein the
2 permissions information associated with the document is configured by an author of the
3 document.

1 63. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is configured to cause the document to be processed according to the second
3 workflow network by:

4 identifying a set of one or more workflow networks specified by the document;

5 identifying a workflow network from the set of workflow networks that satisfies a
6 selection criterion; and
7 causing the second document to be processed according to the workflow network
8 identified from the set of workflow networks before the second operation specified by the first
9 workflow network is performed.

1 64. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is configured to cause the document to be processed according to the second
3 workflow network by:
4 causing at least one operation from the one or more operations specified by the
5 second workflow network to be performed before the second operation specified by the first
6 workflow network is performed.

1 65. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is further configured to:
3 if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:
4 identify a set of workflow networks;
5 identify at least one workflow network from the set of workflow networks
6 for processing the document; and
7 cause the document to be processed according to the at least one workflow
8 network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed.

1 66. (Original) The workflow processing system of claim 57 wherein the
2 controller system is further configured to:
3 if the document is not permitted to be processed by the second workflow network:
4 identify a first set of workflow networks;
5 based upon permissions information associated with the document, delete
6 one or more workflow networks from the first set of workflow networks;

7 identify at least one workflow network from workflow networks
8 remaining in the first set of workflow networks for processing the document; and
9 cause the document to be processed according to the at least one workflow
10 network before the second operation specified by the first workflow network is performed.

1 67. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a computer device to
2 process a document in a workflow system, the method in the computer device comprising:
3 detecting when a document, processed according to a first work flow network, is
4 permitted to be processed according to one or more workflow networks specified by the
5 document, the first workflow network specifying a plurality of operations to be performed on the
6 document including a first operation and a second operation, the location of document in the first
7 workflow network permitting the document to be processed according to the one or more
8 workflow networks being positioned after the first operation and before the second operation is
9 performed on the document;
10 determining when the document is at the location permitting the document to be
11 processed according to the one or more workflow networks, if the document is permitted to be
12 processed according to a second workflow network specified by the document such that
13 processing the document according to the second workflow network returns, upon completion of
14 processing of the document according to the second workflow, to the location to continue
15 processing of the document according to the first workflow network, the second workflow
16 network specifying one or more operations to be performed on the document; and
17 if the document is permitted to be processed according to the second workflow
18 network, processing the document according to the second workflow network before the second
19 operation specified by the first workflow network is performed on the document,
20 wherein the first workflow network comprises a first Petri net and the second
21 workflow comprises a second Petri net.

68. (Canceled)